CLAIMS

1. A wind driven sailing craft with a hull of the displacement type with a keel or keels, is provided with hydrofoil means adapted to lift the stern of the craft when the craft is propelled forwards in use by power propulsion means acting at the stern of the hull.

2. A wind driven sailing craft as claimed in Claim 1, in which the displacement hull is a mono-hull shaped for high-speed sailing, with a transverse cross-section which tapers downwardly to its keel line, and which increases in cross-section from the bow to a fullest transverse section, and decreases in cross section from the fullest transverse section to the after end, and in which the keel line of the hull tapers downwardly from the bow and the stern to a base line at the fullest transverse section.

3. A wind driven sailing craft as claimed in Claim 2 in which the hydrofoil means is adapted to provide substantially no lift to the stern of the craft when the craft is sailing in use.

4. A wind driven sailing craft as claimed in Claim 3 in which the hydrofoil means is adapted to lift the stern of the craft when the craft is propelled forwards in use by power propulsion means acting at the stern of the hull, to such a degree that the craft is maintained at a substantially level trim.

5. A wind driven sailing craft as claimed in Claim 4 in which the hydrofoil means comprises a substantially rectangular shaped hydrofoil element, in which the shorter sides thereof are disposed substantially parallel to the direction of the hull, and which is adapted to rotate on a transverse axis to provide variable lift to the stern of the craft.

6. A wind driven sailing craft as claimed in Claim 5 in which the rotation of the hydrofoil element is controlled manually.

7. A wind driven sailing craft as claimed in Claim 5 in which the rotation of the hydrofoil element is controlled automatically.

8. A wind driven sailing craft as claimed in Claim 5 or Claim 6 in which the hydrofoil element is rotatable in use from a substantially no lift angle level with the water flow under the after end of the hull, to a lift angle of approximately -5 to -8 degrees.

9. A wind driven sailing craft as claimed in Claim 8 in which the hydrofoil element is attached to the underside of the hull by two struts.

10. A wind driven sailing craft as claimed in Claim 9 in which the struts are provided with rudder elements adapted to steer the craft.

11. A wind driven sailing craft as claimed in Claim 10 which is provided with a drop keel, which is lowered into position to provide ballast when the craft is sailing, and is raised when the craft is propelled mechanically.

12. A wind driven sailing craft as claimed in Claim 11 in which the keel is provided with a ballast bulb.

13. A wind driven sailing craft as claimed in Claim 12 in which a recess is provided in the hull, adapted to receive the upper portion of the ballast bulb when the keel is raised.

14. A wind driven sailing craft as claimed in Claim 13 which is provided with internal water ballast tanks which are filled with water when the craft is sailing in use, and emptied when the craft is propelled forwards in use by power propulsion means.

15. A wind driven sailing craft as claimed in Claim 14 in which the hydrofoil element is disposed substantially level with the base line of the hull.

16. A wind driven sailing craft as claimed in Claim 14 in which the hydrofoil element is disposed substantially level with the base line of the drop keel when it is in its lowered position.

17. A wind driven sailing craft as claimed in Claim 15 in which the hydrofoil element is provided with an elongated tear-drop shaped cross-section

18. A wind driven sailing craft as claimed in Claim 17 in which the power propulsion means is an inboard engine provided with an outboard screw propeller acting at the stern of the hull.

19. A wind driven sailing craft as claimed in Claim 18 in which the blades of the propeller are adapted to be rotated to be substantially parallel with the direction of the hull when the craft is sailing in use to reduce drag.

20. A wind driven sailing craft as claimed in Claim 19 in which the hull is shaped with a spray rail.

21. A wind driven sailing craft as claimed in Claim 20 in which the watercraft is an approximately 6 berth 13 metre ocean-going yacht.

22. A wind driven sailing craft substantially as described herein and with reference to the accompanying drawings.

23. A hydrofoil element for use with a wind driven sailing craft with a hull of the displacement type with a keel or keels, which is provided with hydrofoil means adapted to lift the stern of the craft when the craft is propelled forwards in use by power propulsion means acting at the stern of the hull.